

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 3, 5, and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,862,325 (“Reed”) in view of Ramasubramani et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,577 (“Ramasubramani”). Applicants disagree and request reconsideration of the Examiner’s rejections for at least the following reasons.

In the Examiner’s response to the Applicants’ previous arguments, the Examiner states that Ramasubramani discloses an authentication server as in the claims of the present invention. The Examiner directs the Applicants attention to column 4, lines 9-28. Applicants have read this excerpt from Ramasubramani and conclude that this excerpt, as well as other parts of Ramasubramani, does not disclose or suggest the authentication server as in the claims of the present invention.

The “authentication process” mentioned from this excerpt relates to FIG. 1 of Ramasubramani. In FIG. 1 there is shown a typical authentication process between a client and a merchant. While such a process may result in a secure link being established between the client and the merchant, and may in fact involve an authentication server, the authentication server disclosed in Ramasubramani is not the authentication server as in the claims of the present invention.

As set forth in the claims of the present invention, “an authentication server” is one that establishes a two-way trusted communication that allows an authenticated user access to a list of application servers associated with a client identifier.

The authentication process/server described in the excerpts in Ramasubramani do not allow an authenticated user access to a list of application servers. Instead, it appears that a client is simply allowed access to a single server associated with a single merchant.

Ramasubramani appears to discuss two types of servers; a proxy server (see Abstract) and an authentication server (see FIG. 1 in the excerpts in column 4). It is the proxy server that reserves certificates for a client, which the client may later send to a merchant’s authentication server. The proxy server in Ramasubramani does not establish a two-way trusted communication link; it only reserves certificates. The establishment of the link is left up to the merchant’s authentication server. While such a server may establish a link, it does not allow the user access to a list of application servers. The fact that a merchant’s authentication server may allow a client access to its server is not akin to, or suggestive of, allowing a client access to a list of application servers, as in the claims of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the disclosures of Reed and Ramasubramani because taken separately, or in combination, neither reference discloses or suggests an authentication server that both establishes a two-way trusted communication link and allows an authenticated user access to a list of application servers, as in the claims of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11 and 13-14.

Entry of Request for Reconsideration After Final Rejection

Entry of this Request for Reconsideration ("Request") is requested under 37 U.S.C. §1.116 because the Request: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues regarding further search and/or considerations; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Entry of the Request is thus respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

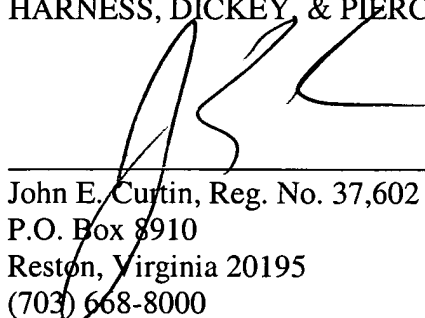
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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